(U) Who's Who in Afghanistan?

FROM: (U//FOUO) ████████
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(U) Gunner looks out of US Chinook helicopter flying over Logar Province in Afghanistan (Reuters)

(U//FOUO) Analysts: The situation in Afghanistan is rapidly changing, with additional US troops being flown in every week, more NSAers deploying, etc. Under such circumstances, it can be a challenge to stay on top of "who's who" among those deployed to the country. To help you get your bearings, this article will present some very basic information on how the military forces there are organized, and will then describe where NSA has deployed its people, and what their specific roles are.

(U) First, a few *elementary facts about how the military forces are set up:*

(U) The coalition of foreign forces operating in Afghanistan is known as the International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF. It is a NATO-led security and development mission in Afghanistan established by the United Nations Security Council in December 2001. It includes the combined forces of 26 NATO, 10 partner and 2 non-NATO / non-partner countries. US General Stanley McChrystal is the Commander ISAF.

(S//REL) ISAF has divided Afghanistan into five regional commands (RCs). Germany leads RC North, France heads RC Capital (i.e., Kabul), Italy leads RC West, the US leads RC East, and command of RC South rotates among the British, Canadians, and Dutch. Most US forces are based in RC East and RC South, which are the least peaceful areas of the country. (The south was the main power base of the Taliban prior to ISAF's arrival and the population includes many who are still sympathetic to them, while the eastern region is influenced by the presence of Taliban forces near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border). (*Click for larger view of map.*)

(U//FOUO) ...Moving on to talk about *how NSAers are organized in Afghanistan*, here are a couple of terms that you will see quite often:

(U//FOUO) **CSG** (Cryptologic Services Group): An NSA team that provides dedicated support to military commanders or other U.S. government departments. CSGs have access to NSANet and SIGINT databases. The construct of a CSG varies. Typically it includes an Officer-in-Charge (OIC), a Battle Captain (shift lead), and Intelligence Analysts (IAs). Most CSGs have a mix of IA skill sets to include SIGINT Geospatial Analysts, DNI Analysts, etc. The analysts in the CSG pull data from NSANet and the RT-RG suite of tools, including finished intelligence, transcripts, and tippers. Being embedded with customers, the CSG is able to tailor SIGINT responses to meet the most critical needs.

- (U//FOUO) **CST** (Cryptologic Support Team): Smaller than a CSG, CSTs typically support a Brigade Combat Team (BCT). CSTs provide direct NSA SIGINT capabilities to their respective tactical units, and are the focal point at the brigade level for SIGINT education, target analysis, planning, tipping, and coordination with other NSA elements ("reach-back").

(U) Where does NSA deploy its personnel? Here's a rundown. (A glossary of terms follows):

Kabul (where coordination with top-level political and military officials occurs) (U//FOUO)

(C//REL) **NSA/CSS Representative (NCR) Afghanistan** is the senior national cryptologic representative in country. The NCR oversees all NSA operations and is the primary POC for NSA. ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ is the current NCRAFGH. The NCR has offices in Kabul and Bagram. (Click HERE to review the NCR's website.) Staff includes:

- Afghanistan Foreign Relations Office (AFRO): Provides support on engagements with foreign partners.
- SID/Data Acquisition (S3) representative: provides technical collection support, covering many collection systems. He travels throughout the region.
- Information Technology Directorate (ITD): provides forward technical support.

(S//SI//REL) **CSG Kabul:** Supports the International Security Assistance Force/US Forces Afghanistan (ISAF/USFORA) as well as the Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan (CSTC-A), and the Interagency Operations Coordination Center (IOCC) in Kabul, with the assistance of Second Party integrees. CSG Kabul provides:

- SIGINT support to elements working all-source reporting;
- target packages to Special Forces units;
- force-protection for CSTC-A, Embedded Training Teams (ETTs) and Police Mentor Teams (PMTs); and
- counternarcotics support to DEA.

...The CSG recently moved to a facility at Kabul International Airport.

(U//FOUO) **CSG Team Kabul:** Provides analytical support for special targeting.

(S//REL) **CST 23:** Provides analytic support for task force at FOB Shank.

(TS//SI//REL) **Special Collection Service (SCS) Kabul:** ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮, SCS Kabul provides SIGINT collection, analysis and dissemination to local customers such as the U.S. Ambassador, CIA Station Chief, etc. The site reports on topics such as leadership and governance, as well as counterterrorism and insurgency. The site's collection is also incorporated into RT-RG and is used by numerous target offices at both NSAW and NSA-Georgia.

Bagram (Located about 60 km north of Kabul. Centered on the large Bagram Air Base. Bagram holds the largest concentration of military and NSA-operated facilities in the country.) (U//FOUO)

(S//REL) **Deputy NCR:** Oversees SIGINT operations in Bagram. The Deputy NCR support staff handles analytic and language issues throughout Afghanistan, to include those related to RT-RG. Other staff include:

- CENTER ICE Theater Manager: In addition to supporting the CENTER ICE system, provides guidance to U.S. personnel in theater on interaction with foreign partners.
- SID/Data Acquisition (S3) representative: provides technical collection support, covering many collection systems. He travels throughout the region.
- Information Technology Directorate (ITD): provides forward technical support.

(S//SI//REL) **CSG Bagram:** Provides support to the tactical war fighter in RC East. Includes Second Party integrees.

(S//REL) **CSG Task Force (TF) 373:** SIGINT support to the Special Operations Forces throughout Afghanistan, targeting al-Qa'ida.

(S//REL) **CST 20:** SIGINT support to the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan (CJSOTF-A) teams operating throughout the country.

(S//REL) **Afghanistan Remote Operations Cryptologic Center (A-ROCC):** New time-sensitive SIGINT processing facility in Bagram. Personnel from nine nations will produce transcripts and gists, supporting ISAF priorities and tactical military operations. Some mission-management and analyst positions are to come. (See related article.)

Kandahar (in RC South) (U//FOUO)

(S//REL) **CST 24:** SIGINT support to the 5th Brigade, 2nd Stryker Infantry Division.

(S//REL) **CSG RC South:** SIGINT support to RC South, all subordinate units and the Joint Interagency Task Force for Counter-Narcotics (JIATF-CN).

(S//REL) **CST 19:** Supports the Kandahar Fusion Cell, fusing together operations and intelligence to support all Special Forces operating in RC South.

Jalalabad (in RC East) (U//FOUO)

(S//REL) **CST 17:** SIGINT support to the operations conducted by the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

Salerno (in RC East) (U//FOUO)

(S//REL) **CST 18:** SIGINT support to the operations conducted by the 3rd Brigade 1st Infantry Division.

Glossary of Common Abbreviations and Terms (U)

(U) **BCT** (Brigade Combat Team): Tactical teams, typically belong to Army elements that perform military operations. SIGINT support personnel may be embedded in BCTs.

(S//SI//REL) **CENTER ICE:** A Coalition communications system that provides TS//SI-level tipping and threat information as well as direct support to operations, to SIGINT Seniors Europe partners (14 countries). Personnel handle the maintenance, training, etc. of the CENTER ICE program from Bagram, frequently visiting other sites.

(U) **Coalition Forces:** Multi-national alliance of nations working together, to include 5-eyes, 9-eyes, NATO, ISAF.

(U) **COP:** Combat outpost

(U) **CSTC-A** (Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan): Provides training and mentoring to Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police forces, with an eye on transition of operations.

(U) **ETT** (Embedded Training Team): Coalition soldiers embedded with Afghan military brigades to provide training.

(U//FOUO) **FOB** (Forward Operation Base): Any secured forward position that is used to support tactical operations. A FOB may or may not contain an airfield, hospital, or other facilities. The base may be used for an extended period of time. FOB's are traditionally supported by main operating bases that are required to provide backup support to them.

(S//REL) **Fusion Cells:** Teams to fuse together multiple sources of intelligence and operations. Four fusion centers will be stood up, in Kandahar (RC-South), Bagram (RC-East), Mazar-e-Sharif (RC-North), and Herat (RC-West).

(U) **IJC:** Intermediate Joint Command.

(C//REL) **JIOC-A** (Joint Intelligence Operations Center Afghanistan): Provides and facilitates predictive, relevant and fully fused, near- to long-term strategic and operational intelligence, supporting theatre-level ISAF and US executive leadership.

(U) **PMT** (Police Mentor Teams): U.S. military personnel working as mentors with the Afghan National Police.

(U) **PRT** (Provincial Reconstruction Team): Largely civilian team that works with local leaders to improve economic conditions, on transportation, agriculture, education, medical projects.

(U//FOUO) **RT-RG** (Real-Time Regional Gateway): Delivers tactical SIGINT to the war fighter within minutes.

(U) **USFOR-A:** US Forces Afghanistan

(U) Editor's note: Is this type of information useful to you? Let us know by using the comments/suggestions button below. Thanks!